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GEOGRAPHICAL RECORD

AMERICA

THE TRANSCONTINENTAL EXCURSION OF 1912 AT CRATER LAKE. Mr. J. H. Cuntz formerly of Stevens Institute, Hoboken, who is writing a series of letters to the *New York Times* on the journey of the Society's Transcontinental Excursion, describes in a letter published on Sept. 29, the automobile trip from Medford, Oregon, to Crater Lake National Park. The party traveled on this automobile excursion as the guests of the Commercial Club of Medford. Mr. Cuntz says:

"To get to Crater Lake the party had a fine automobile ride of eighty-five miles, in the course of which they ascended nearly 6,000 feet, and passed through a virgin forest of Douglas fir, yellow pine, and sugar pine, thick-set giants of the forest that aroused the admiration of the foreign members of the party to such a degree that they insisted on stopping at every opportunity to photograph some of the trees. All day, too, the party climbed above cliffs rising from 1,000 to 2,000 feet above the surface of the lake, and rowed on its transparent blue waters which in some places are 2,000 feet deep.

"In the evening the geographers gathered around their campfires, discussed the geographical and geological history of the slumbering lake and the dark, silent region around them. Crater Lake is nearly circular in shape, and has an average diameter of five miles. Its surface is more than 6,000 feet above sea level, and it is completely surrounded by cliffs, which rise in some places 2,000 feet almost vertically. Outside this rim the ground slopes away in all directions, so that the lake seems to be set on the top of a mountain. It is believed, however, that the present mountain is only the lower portion of a far larger one which towered to a height of nearly 15,000 feet and has received the name of Mount Mazama.

"It is supposed that the upper portion of this great volcano was destroyed in some tremendous cataclysm, and that it was probably engulfed, leaving the great hole which was afterward filled by the lake. On this theory, the depression occupied by the lake is not, properly speaking, a crater, but a caldera or pit. Since its formation, several small craters have opened within it, and have ejected lava and built up volcanic cones, one of which now rises 800 feet above the surface of the lake and is called Wizard Island. Some members of the party, however, maintained that the top of the mountain might have been engulfed, and still other scientists thought there might not have been any higher part of the mountain at all, and that the lake occupied what was once the real crater of a volcano."

THE ALASKA-CANADA BOUNDARY. Twenty-three years ago the United States took the first steps towards locating the 141st meridian which, according to the treaty of 1825, was to form the boundary between Russian territory and Canada from the Arctic Ocean to near Mt. St. Elias. In August, the United States and Canada completed the delimitation of this boundary line, 600 miles long, most of the work having been done in the past six years. It was a slow process, for the working season in that high latitude is very short, low water at times greatly delayed the survey parties in reaching the work ground, and the transportation of outfit and supplies was a difficult problem.

The second section of the Alaska-Canada boundary, also about 600 miles long, extends from Mt. St. Elias to and through Portland Channel. After the Tribunal of London settled this boundary dispute in 1904 a Joint Commission was appointed to delimit the boundary. The Commission at once set about identifying peaks which the Tribunal had named as marking the boundary line. fixing their geographical positions, connecting all the boundary peaks by triangulation and carrying on much other essential detail. The surveyors have been in the field for the past seven years and it may take some years yet to complete the work. Heavy snowfall, cutting vistas through dense growth of bushes to bring points of triangulation into view and many other obstacles have delayed the work.

SUMMER EXCURSION OF THE GEOGRAPHIC SOCIETY OF CHICAGO. Glacier National Park was the objective of the third annual summer excursion of this Society. A party of fifteen representing the Society went in by way of Belton, Montana, the western entrance of the Park, under the leadership of Mr. Jesse L. Smith, a former president of the Society. At the head of Lake McDonald, horses and pack train awaited the party and after spending a day at Avalanche Basin the party pushed on into the interior, crossing Gunsight Pass, July 20. A day was spent on Blackfoot Glacier and four succeeding days at points along the chain of St. Mary's Lakes. McDermott Lake was next visited and from the permanent camp there four side trips were made, notably one to Iceberg Lake and another to the top of a pinnacle of the Garden Wall above Swift Current Pass. Leaving the McDermott country the party explored in succession the valleys of Cut Bank and Two Medicine Creeks and followed the course of the latter out of the Park boundary to Midvale from whence the return to Chicago was made.

ASCENT OF MT. SIR SANDFORD. Mr. Howard Palmer writes to the *Bulletin:*

"This year I desired to round out our Alpine work in the Selkirks by capturing Sir Sandford, the highest peak in the range. We made this climb on June 24. In company with Prof. E. W. D. Holway I left Golden, B. C., on June 17, proceeding down the Columbia River by canoe. We employed two local men as packers and canoe men and were accompanied by Edward Feuz, Jr., and Rudolph Aemmer, Swiss guides, making the party six strong. Only the guides and ourselves, however, made the climb.

"The base camp near Sir Sandford Glacier was reached on June 23 after three days of laborious back jacking via Gold River and Palmer Creek (west branch) in unprecedentedly hot weather for this region. A black bulb thermometer in the sun read 144° F. and the shade temperature was 84° F. However, the weather was fine otherwise, though the slopes of Sir Sandford were unusually bare of snow, disclosing the underlying ice everywhere below 10,000 feet. The mountain is 11,634 feet by Wheeler's survey. This rendered the previously tried routes impracticable of ascent and forced us to adopt an exposed path beneath hanging glaciers. The westerly face of the peak, the only one that has yet offered the slightest chance for an ascent, is entirely glacier covered, much resembling the Grand Combin in the Alps. The climb therefore comprised snow and ice work entirely.

"We left camp (about 5,700 feet) two miles from the base of the mountain at 1 A. M., and reached the summit at 11 A. M. On account of the watery condition of the snow owing to the bright sunlight, the descent was begun at once, as a long traverse of a cornice along the summit ridge, fully exposed to the direct rays, had to be made. Camp was regained at 4,30 P. M. Besides many crevasses, the chief difficulty was presented by these cornices overhanging the ridge on both sides, and the slushy state of the snow.

"Although, according to modern mountaineering standards, the peak would doubtless not be ranked as difficult for an experienced party, yet decided elements of danger will scarcely ever be absent from the climb. Sir Sandford has been the goal of no less than eight attempts to scale its icy fastnesses during the last half dozen years, not counting the successful expedition. No other peak in the Canadian Rockies is known to the writer to have such a record. Only five of these have reached even the base of the mountain, and aside from our parties, only one, that of Mr. Culver of Winnipeg, in 1911, has actually set foot on the peak itself.

"Two days later, June 26, the same party ascended Mt. Adamant, northwest of Sir Sandford, just short of 11,000 feet in altitude. This climb was of an entirely different character, being mostly rock work. For ten hours the climbing was necessarily continuous owing to stormy weather. The only break was fifteen minutes at the summit. This mountain proved much more difficult, if safer, than Sir Sandford and consumed eighteen and a half hours, the return to camp being at 1 A. M. in a severe thunderstorm.

"Only a limited amount of scientific work could be accomplished. The Sir Sandford Glacier's surface motion was again determined in the hope of showing a different rate under hot weather conditions, but after the marks were set it unfortunately turned cold—even more so than at the time of the first determination, and the rate was slower. The forefoot had retreated about forty feet since 1911. Some additional survey work was accomplished to connect with previous results of the government triangulation. Numerous photographs were secured but two weeks of incessantly stormy weather forced a return with less accomplishment than was hoped for."

GROWTH OF A NEW CANADIAN TOWN. Although the track on the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway is still many miles distant from the town of Fort George on the upper Fraser River, few towns in western Canada are developing so rapidly. Fort George now has a population of over 1,500 people; two hotels, two dry goods stores, three lumber companies and a sash and door factory. The *Fort George Tribune* has been changed from a weekly to a daily paper, and all homesteads have been taken up within a radius of eight miles. Track laying on the Grand Trunk Pacific west of the Rocky Mountains on the way to Fort George is now proceeding on an average of over a mile a day and the steel reached Tête Jaune Cache early in July. This point is 1097 miles west of Winnipeg.

CLIMATE OF PORTO RICO. The climatic conditions of Porto Rico are being studied in detail by Dr. O. L. Fassig, Section Director of the United States Weather Bureau at San Juan. The increasing importance of this island, with its favorable location in the trade wind belt, its high elevations, and its agricultural possibilities, gives such an investigation an economic significance which it has not had until the present time. Characteristically uniform are the temperatures. The mean annual for the whole island is 76°; the coolest month averages 73°, and the warmest, 79°. In ten years the mean annual has varied only 1° above and below 76°. These are averages for the whole island. The towns on the coastal plain have somewhat higher means, while those along or near the summit of the main divide have lower means. The diurnal ranges are comparatively large. On the coast they average 10° or 11°. Inland, they vary from 20° to 25°. The maxima reach nearly 90° in summer on the coast, and the minima fall to about 66° in winter. In the hills, the maxima and minima are somewhat lower (87° and 61° in summer and winter, respectively). There are no well-defined rainy and dry seasons. The winter rains are comparatively light, with a minimum in February at nearly all stations. The maximum is usually in September on the east coast; in October on the south coast; in November on the north coast, while on the mountains of the interior it is in summer. The rains are usually of short duration, not more than 10 or 12 minutes on the average. Tropical and extra-tropical cyclonic rains are of comparatively rare occurrence. The mean rainfalls for the whole island by seasons are, winter, 11 inches; spring, 16 inches; summer, 23 inches; autumn, 26 inches. The physiological effects of the high relative humidity are largely counteracted by persistent flow of the trades. The constancy of these winds is remarkable. The variations in direction are from northeast to southeast, with a decided preponderance from east southeast. The average hourly velocity varies very little throughout the year. The summer thunderstorms are not severe, and attract little attention. Porto Rico is singularly free from the severer type of tropical cyclones (*Annals Assoc. Amer. Geogr.*, Vol. I). R. DEC. WARD.

IMPROVEMENTS IN THE HARBOR OF CURAÇAO. In a letter addressed to the Society, Mr. W.ct.I.th.Zelle, the Director of Public Works of the Island of Curaçao says that work has been started to deepen the harbor entrance at Willemstad by dredging over a width of 263 ft. to a minimum depth of 34.5 ft. below sea-level at ebb-tide. Steps are also being taken to light the harbor adequately so that vessels may enter or leave by night with as much safety as during the day-time.

THE POPULATION OF CHILE IN 1910. The population of Chile on Dec. 31, 1910, was calculated by the "Oficina Central de Estadistica" to consist of 3,415,060 inhabitants. This number is distributed as follows for the different provinces: Tacna, 42,925; Tarapacá, 115,940; Antofagasta, 118,718; Atacama, 65,118; Coquimbo, 178,731; Aconcagua, 132,730; Valparaiso, 299,466; Santiago, 546,599; O'Higgins, 94,257; Colchagua, 159,421; Curicó, 108,120; Talca, 132,730;

Linares, 111,773; Maule, 115,568; Nuble, 169,858; Concepcion, 225,054; Aranco, 62,259; Bio-bio, 100,495; Malleco, 113,020; Cautin, 161,935; Valdivia, 131,751; Llanquihue, 113,285; Chiloé, 91,657; Territorio de Magallanes, 23,650.

The number of births in 1910 is given as 130,052, of which 66,741 were males. The excess of births over deaths in 1910 amounted to 23,979.

THE EIGHTEENTH INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF AMERICANISTS. This Congress was held at the University of London, May 27-June 1, under the Presidency of Sir Clements R. Markham. It was attended by 150 foreign members. Some of the papers were of geographical interest. The following information is condensed from the *Geographical Journal* (Vol. 40, 1912, No. 3, pp. 318-320).

Waldemar Jochelson, of St. Petersburg, described the work of the ethnological section of the Riabushinsky Expedition sent under the auspices of the Imperial Russian Geographical Society, in 1908, to the Aleutian islands and Kamchatka. His party were occupied in field work there for three years, and studied the folklore of the Aleuts, their physical type, and their language, which is of Eskimo origin. Thirteen ancient village sites and some huge shell-heaps were excavated, and implements, weapons, ornaments, and other prehistoric objects of stone and bone were found in them. In Kamchatka, in the old underground dwellings and fortifications, the existence of pottery (which had been denied by former travelers) was ascertained. The mythology of the Kamchadal proved to be identical with that of Northwest America, and there is a morphological relation between the language and those of some American Indians.

Mr. J. A. Mason, a Fellow of the International School of American Archæology and Ethnology in the City of Mexico, spent four months last winter among the Tepecano or Tepehuán at their village Azequeltán in the great barranca of the Rio de Bolaños, which borders the states of Zacatecas and Jalisco, in order to study the remnant—less than one hundred of sufficiently pure blood—of this people, who claim to be descended from the more ancient inhabitants. Their religion is closely related to that of the Huichol and Cora, and the ceremonial feasts and preparation of symbolic objects form a prominent part in their lives. Formerly, "from Arizona to Jalisco, a stretch of 1,000 miles along the ranges of the Sierra Madre, there lived peoples speaking the closely connected Pima and Tepehuán languages. Together with these are found other languages, such as Tarahumare, Yaqui, and Opata, undoubtedly connected, but probably differing considerably. There are great ethnological differences between such extremes as the Pima in Arizona and the Tepehuán."

Jonkheer L. van Panhuys gave an account of the Sixth "Surinam" Expedition sent to explore the interior of Dutch Guiana, in the autumn of 1909, up the Surinam river. Near the source of one of its branches, the Gran Rio, the head of a stream leading to an unknown region was discovered. This proved to be an affluent of the Corentin, and was followed down by the expedition.

Dr. K. T. Stoepel was asked by the Berlin Museum of Ethnology, in 1911, to investigate the ancient remains at San Agustin, on the upper waters of the Magdalena in Colombia. Massive stone coffins over 6 feet long, in vaults of almost modern type covered by artificial mounds, gigantic statues, and a remarkable chamber with sculptured stone door-jambs were discovered, and further search will doubtless be fruitful of results. Dr. Stoepel brought away many photographs and drawings.

AFRICA

CHANGES OF CLIMATE WITHIN HISTORIC TIMES IN NORTHERN AFRICA. A noteworthy discussion of a much-debated question is Dr. Hermann Leiter's "Die Frage der Klimaänderung während historischer Zeit in Nordafrika" (*Abhandl. Geogr. Gesells. Wien,* Vol. 8). The author has examined the literature, old as well as recent, in connection with this investigation. His presentation of the present climatic conditions of northern Africa is one of the best published. This is followed by an account of the climate of the region in ancient times, based upon details of stream flow, flora, fauna, human habitations, and the like. Finally there comes a statement of our present knowledge of the causes of climatic oscillations.

The author reaches the conclusion that there is no evidence of any change in temperature. There has been no change in seasonal distribution of rainfall. The rain probability may be somewhat larger now. There are no reports of such snowfalls along the borders of the desert in ancient times as have taken place recently. There has been no change in the flow of water in the rivers. Vegetation and agriculture show nothing which cannot be explained by a decrease in human activity. There is no reason for assuming any deterioration of climate on the basis of change in the fauna, or in the disappearance of the large mammals. This happened as the result of human intervention. The denser population of former times was possible because the people worked harder to secure and to utilize the water. There was no greater humidity in ancient times than now, judging by the old descriptions of the desert, its extent, and its relation to traffic. Evidences of a greater degree of moisture at present may be explained as the result of climatic oscillations. The widespread belief in an increase of temperature and of dryness within historic times is not only not susceptible of proof, but there is evidence to the contrary. R. DeC. Ward.

ASIA

Industrial Education in the Philippines. Recent reports published by the U. S. Bureau of Education say that great progress under American teachers is being made by the Filipinos in the field of industrial training and useful arts. In some lines, particularly in lace-making and embroidery the products of the Philippine schools compare favorably with French and Swiss products. The Philippine system of education, as American teachers have shaped it, is based on the principle that the children should be trained for their life work. Nearly 400,000 school pupils are engaged in some kind of industrial labor. This instruction begins in the primary grades both for boys and girls and the work is carried on in an advanced stage in the intermediate schools. Twenty-six well-equipped trade schools have been established in Manila and other parts of the Philippines. A college of engineering has been added to the University of the Philippines and a College of Agriculture is established at Los Banos.

Results of the Abor Expedition. The expedition sent out by the Government of India in 1911 to punish the Abors who murdered English and Indian explorers did not accomplish its main purpose as the supplies were insufficient and it was also impossible to follow the natives into their most remote mountain fastnesses. Neither did the expedition entirely solve the problem of the identity of the Sangpo River of Tibet with the Dihong-Brahmaputra as the expedition was unable to advance far enough north, though it explored a part of the hitherto unknown stretch of the river. There is no doubt, however, that the two rivers are identical. Several large snowy peaks were fixed by the surveyors on what appears to be the main Himalayan Divide, including one very fine peak of over 25,000 feet. Many more snowpeaks were also fixed on the watershed between the Dihong and Subansiri Rivers. A survey of an area of thirty-five square miles, mapped on a scale of four miles to an inch, gives some idea of the general topography of the snowy ranges.

EUROPE

The Royal Geographical Society's New Home. It is announced that the Royal Geographical Society has bought Lowther Lodge and its grounds for its new premises. The price paid for the property is £100,000. Lowther Lodge was built at Kensington Gore by Mr. Norman Shaw for the father of the present Speaker of the House of Commons. The construction of the building is excellent, and it is in perfect condition. The internal arrangement is such that with little change the premises will, at an early date, be suitable for the purposes of the Society. The reception rooms on the ground floor will provide accommodation for a museum, a map room, a council room, a reading room, and a secretary's office. On the first floor, overlooking the gardens, are some fine rooms suitable for a library, while close to them are others which will be used as reading, writing, smoking, and tea rooms. Above these are rooms affording ample accommodation for the Society's school of instruction, the map draughtsman, and other officials of the Society. The house has a good basement and extensive attics, which will provide storage for books or maps sufficient to meet requirements for many years.

Attached to the house are two acres of garden ground. It is probable that the Society will part with as much of this land as is necessary to enable it to build a hall large enough to hold a thousand persons. The lack of such a hall has been for many years a cause of great inconvenience. The new premises are, it is true, at some distance from the present offices of the Society. This disadvantage, however, is more than counterbalanced by the fact that the building is in a quarter of London where much scientific work is going on, and is also easy of access from all parts of the West End. The Society has sold its present house in Savile Row at a satisfactory price, and with the money thus obtained and other funds is able to defray most of the expenditure necessitated by the purchase. It desires, however, to take possession of Lowther Lodge without incurring any financial liabilities, and an appeal is therefore about to be made to the Fellows to subscribe to the cost of the new premises, upon the occupation of which the Society will probably enter in the beginning of next year. (*Scott. Geogr. Mag.*, Vol. 28, 1912, No. 9, pp. 480-81.)

HIGHEST FLIGHT ON RECORD. The Paris correspondent of the *London Times* (weekly edition, No. 1863, Sept. 13, 1912) says that the airman Garros in a Blériot monoplane ascended from Houlgate, twelve miles from Trouville, on Friday afternoon, Sept. 6, and attained a height of 16,405 feet, thereby beating the previous highest flight achieved by Lieut. Blaschke with a passenger at Vienna on June 29. This astonishing achievement is all the more thrilling from the fact that Garros's motor broke down at the summit of this climb, so that he had to return to earth in one huge *vol plané* of over 16,000 feet. Garros landed at a place twelve and a half miles inland from Houlgate.

PHYSIOGRAPHIC NOTES ON THE BERICI HILLS, ITALY. Under the title of "La Regione dei Berici," the Italian Hydrographic Office has issued its publications No. 28 and 29 under a single binding. The work covers investigations on the morphology, hydrography and geology of this uplift and was undertaken mainly for the purpose of determining the district's water supply. The region is of special interest to the student of the earth's major tectonic features owing to its relation to the Venetian ranges, themselves forming part of the European Altaides as a portion of the westernmost southern marginal or Dinaric arc.

The Berici hills lie some 70 kms. W. of Venice, and extend almost 20 kms. to the south of the town of Vicenza. The area they cover is about 200 sq. kms. Their relief is due to a domical uplift of a series of strata extending from the Upper Cretaceous to the Lower Miocene. The range presents a festooned front to the north and is divided roughly into an eastern and western section by the Val Liona on the south and the Fimon basin on the north. The eastern section consists almost entirely of an undulating plateau which merges gradually with the plains lying north and south of it. On the east and west this section is isolated by precipitous slopes. The highest peaks are to be found within this area. These are M. Tondo (421 m.) M. Zengia (431 m.) M. Alto (444 m.). The western section is an elongated narrow band, the apex of which may be said to lie at S. Gottardo, at a height of 408 m. From this point it slopes gradually downwards until the whole uplift merges insensibly with the plains environing Spessa. North of San Gottardo a projecting spur of low relief extends almost to the town of Vicenza where the altitude decreases to about 160 m.

The notes taken on the field led the observers to infer that the Berici hills taken together with the Montegalda and the Euganei hills may be considered as the remotest and weakest folds of the folding by which the most recent Tertiary formations were brought to light.

A study of the region's geology seems to bring out the fact that these hills were submerged during the Upper Oligocene beneath a relatively shallow sea in the bottom of which frequent explosions occurred. The physical and biological conditions prevailing at that time were in many respects like those observable to-day in Polynesian waters. LEON DOMINIAN.

Cities in the Russian Empire with more than 100,000 Inhabitants. The Russian Empire has now thirty-two cities each with more than 100,000 inhabitants. Fifty years ago, in 1862, there were only five cities with more than this population. These were St. Petersburg, Moscow, Warsaw, Odessa, and Riga. The present great cities of the Empire with their population are as follows:

St. Petersburg	1,907,000	Helsingfors	144,000
Moscow	1,618,000	Tula	132,000
Warsaw	848,000	Kishinev	131,000
Odessa	540,000	Samara	125,000
Kiev	501,000	Irkutsk	112,000
Lodz	385,000	Minsk	110,000
Riga	350,000	Vladivostok	108,000
Kharkov	225,000	Orenburg	105,000
Saratov	205,000	Tomsk	105,000
Baku	202,000	Nizhni-Novgorod	104,000
Vilna	200,000	Nikolayev	104,000
Tiflis	200,000	Kokand	103,000
Tashkent	188,000	Namangan	103,000
Rostov on Don	160,000	Dvinsk	101,000
Yekaterinoslav	150,000	Omsk	101,000
Astrachan	148,000	Yelisavetgrad	100,000
Kazan	145,000		

(*Geogr. Zeitschr.,* Vol. 18, 1912, No. 8, p. 468.)

POLAR

The German Arctic Expedition. Next spring a German Arctic expedition is expected to sail north for the reexploration of the Northeast Passage. According to *Petermanns Mitteilungen* (Vol. 58, 1912, August, p. 294), the leader is Lieut. Schröder-Stranz and the scientific staff will consist of Dr. Max Mayr of Munich (geography and geology), Dr. Rüdiger, Rostock (oceanography), Dr. E. Detmers, of Hanover (zoology), and Dr. Wenke, Berlin (botany). Meteorological and physical studies and investigations in terrestrial magnetism will be carried on by Capt. Ritscher and Lieut. Sandleben of the ship's officers. The commander of the ship will be Capt. Berg, who has made numerous journeys in the waters of North Siberia.

The chief purpose of the expedition is to make a thorough study of the Northeast Passage. If conditions are favorable during the first winter season, the interior of the Taimyr Peninsula will be explored; or possibly a detachment from the ship will spend the summer there while the ship is engaged in oceanographic work, coast surveys, and the study of coastal islands. The expedition expects to spend three summers in the thorough exploration of the entire Northeast Passage and to return home by way of the Pacific and Atlantic Oceans. Most members of the expedition have been spending the past summer in Spitzbergen for training in ice work and testing the scientific instruments. *Annalen der Hydrographie und Maritimen Meteorologie* (Vol. 40, 1912, No. 9, 449), says that the firm of Stocks & Kolbe is building a first-class Polar exploring vessel for the expedition. The cost of the enterprise will be about $400,000.

Meteorology in Spitzbergen. Dr. Hergesell, in the summer of 1911, established a meteorological station in Spitzbergen for the purpose of making observations extending over a whole year. With pilot and captive balloons and kites, records up to a height of 7,000 meters were secured. Dr. Rempp and Dr. Wagner who were in charge of the station also took an unbroken series of magnetic and seismic observations. The work is to be continued for another year.

M'Clintock's Famous Yacht. The little vessel *Fox,* one of the most renowned of Polar ships, recently sank on the west coast of Greenland. (*Deutsche Rundschau f. Geogr.,* Vol. 34, 1912, No. 12, p. 589.) It was the *Fox* that carried Capt. M'Clintock and his party in 1858 westward along the channels of the Parry Archipelago to winter quarters in Bellot Strait. In the spring of 1859 sledging parties from the *Fox* discovered on the west and south coast of King William Land skeletons and articles that told the terrible tale of the fate that had befallen the Franklin Expedition. No later expedition discovered anything that threw much further light on the fate of the party, though more relics and testimony from Eskimos were secured, particularly by Schwatka.

Dr. Bruce's Spitzbergen Expedition. Dr. W. S. Bruce, the Polar explorer, has returned to his home near Edinburgh from his surveying expedition with Dr. R. N. R. Brown in Spitzbergen. The *London Times,* says the explorers, made a detailed topographic survey and a general geological investigation of the region they traversed. They traveled from Bjona Haven to Advent Bay by a new overland route in which it is believed foxes, ptarmigan, and other game once abounded. In their journey of nearly sixty miles they saw no game but only skeletons. Dr. Bruce strongly condemns the wholesale extermination of animal life which is being carried out in Spitzbergen by gun, trap, and poison. He says Norwegian hunters habitually prepare poisoned bait for bears, foxes and other animals. Strict measures should be taken to protect the fauna of Spitzbergen which is now being rapidly and ruthlessly destroyed. He mentions the important development of the coal mines in which American capital and enterprise are chiefly engaged and of other mining activities, financed by British capital. The Norwegians are developing means of communication by post and wireless telegraphy.

GENERAL

New Geographical Publication. Under the name of *La Geografia,* the Istituto Geografico de Agostini issued at Novara, in June, the first number of a bimestrial publication devoted to the interests of geography. The aim of the publishers is to render their bulletin especially interesting to teachers and students of the science, and to contribute to the improvement of educational methods in Italy. Special articles will also be printed on geographical and kindred topics and much attention will be paid to cartography and economic and commercial geography. The editors are Messrs. Albino Machetto and L. F. de Magistris. Both are well known to Italian geographers. The cartographic section has been entrusted to Mr. Achille Dardano who has won well-merited distinction as a cartographer in his own country and abroad. With these men and under the auspices of the Istituto Geografico de Agostini there is no doubt that this publication will usefully cooperate in the spread of sound geographic knowledge in Italy.

The Antiquity of Man. Professor A. Keith in a lecture in London on "Modern Problems relating to the Antiquity of Man" said he could not cite a more stalwart representative of the orthodox opinion to-day than Professor Boyd Dawkins, who held that man was evolved during the Pleistocene period, and was therefore, from a geologist's point of view, a recent addition to the earth's fauna. A moderate figure for the duration of the Pleistocene period was 400,000 years, and it might be taken as the orthodox opinion that the dawn of the very earliest form of humanity lay 400,000 years behind us, and in that time man as he was now known had been evolved from a crude, almost prehistoric form. Taking the view of M. Rutot as representative of modern heterodoxy, he pointed out that if his claim to have traced man by means of his eolithic culture through the long Pliocene and Miocene periods, and even into the Oligocene period, were admitted, on the estimates of Professor Sollas, which were disputed by M. Rutot, the antiquity of man must be placed at over 3,000,000 years.

The problem of man's antiquity was not yet solved. The picture he wished to leave in their minds was that in the distant past there was not one kind, but a number of very different kinds of men in existence, all of which become extinct except that branch which had given origin to modern man. On the imperfect knowledge at present at disposal it seemed highly probable that man as we know him now took on his human characters near the beginning of the Pliocene period. How long ago that was must be measured by the changes which the earth and living things had undergone, and yet it was only human to try to find a means of measuring that period in a term of years, and the estimates at hand gave an antiquity of at least a million and a half of years. (*The London Times,* weekly edition, Sept. 13, 1912.)